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It is not the opinion of those best informed here that the bill stands any real chance of becoming a law, at all events not at this session, although it is being pushed very strenuously by those interested in sanitary affairs.

Sanitary service.

Extract from message of the governor of the State of Amazonas to the State congress, read on the opening of congress, July 10, 1904.

Although the plague made its appearance in the neighboring States there has been no sign of it here, owing to the precautionary measures adopted by the authorities.

With this end in view the requisite material for the service was acquired, including an apparatus, stoves, pulverizers, autoclaves, etc.

The dispatch boat *Cidade de Manaus* was stationed at Parintins with a medical officer aboard instructed to disinfect every vessel intending to anchor in this port. In the capital the requisite prophylactic measures were executed with judgment and dispatch. During the last months of 1903, 3,759 domiciliary visits were made, 729 house drains were sluiced and disinfected with sulphate of copper, and lime was laid in the kennels.

Later on the municipality took over and still continues the service, and all the public buildings and hospitals are regularly disinfected every week to the number of 325. At the same time a good stock of serum and vaccine was obtained from Rio and from Paris.

The health of the capital is now the best possible, as will be seen from the demographic tables annexed to the report of the sanitary service, showing that the number of deaths during the last twelve months—1st of January to 31st of December—were only 1,772, inclusive of a not small number of deaths from fever patients coming from upcountry.

It is the opinion of the sanitary service, with which I concur, that the mortality in the capital is largely the effect of the wretched system of drainage, with regard to which I have been unable to do anything, owing to a preexisting contract, which the concessionaire will neither carry out nor abandon, having failed to raise the necessary capital. By decree 449 of December 30, last year, the department of hygiene has been divided into different sections, which are now thoroughly organized, and, with the new and perfect appliances with which it is provided, is now fully equipped to successfully combat any epidemic threatening the city.

The capital referred to is Manaus, a city with a population of about 38,720.

Danger of sailing vessels becoming infected in port—Plague in Bahia and other localities—Mortality statistics—Transandine Railway.

AUGUST 24, 1904.

During the week ended August 20, the following vessels left this port for United States ports and were inspected by me, and issued bills of health by this consulate:

On the 14th instant the British steamship *Tintoretto*, for New York, with 6 cabin and 21 steerage passengers, a cargo of coffee, and no change in the personnel of the crew; on the 16th instant, the British steamship *Pilar de Larrinaga*, for New York, with a cargo of coffee and no passengers, and no change in the personnel of the crew while here; on the 19th instant the Norwegian steamship *Progress*, for Philadelphia via Barbados, with a cargo of manganese ore, one passenger, first class, and 3 new members of the crew taken on at this port, all of whom had been on board at least 10 days before date of sailing; on the 20th instant the British steamship *Tolosa*, with a cargo of manganese ore for Baltimore, no passengers, and no change in the personnel of the crew while in this port.

No other vessels left this port for United States ports during the week under consideration.

At this date there are 5 American sailing vessels in this port, namely, the ship *Roanoke* put in for repairs, after collision, and bound from New York for Australia; the barkentine *Glad Tidings*, held here for repairs to injuries sustained on her voyage here from Baltimore; the barkentine *White Wings*, discharging cargo; the bark *Amy*, discharging cargo; and the bark *Julia Rollins*, also discharging cargo.

I mention the fact of these vessels being here at one time only because it is very unusual, and because I believe that one sailing vessel is more in danger of becoming infected with smallpox, yellow fever, or plague, than fifty or perhaps one hundred steam vessels. And this by reason of the fact that all these sailing vessels change to a considerable extent the make-up of their crews here, obtaining men here who have been "on the beach" here for longer or shorter periods; also because these vessels dock and the men all are allowed shore liberty, or if not allowed, take it and desert, or are taken back, and also because these men are not held to anything like the discipline, while in port, that obtains even on the poorest tramp under steam. The crews of steamers are never at any time of the year allowed ashore. This rule is strictly observed, and comparatively few changes in the crews of these vessels are made here.

However, as there has been but one case of yellow fever here during the past three weeks, the risk from that source is small.

Plague in Bahia.

The following notices of the spread of plague in Bahia have been received since my last report to your office:

August 17.—There were to-day 3 deaths from bubonic plague, of which number 2 occurred in the plague hospital. The use of serum, and of vaccination against plague is continued here on a very large scale.

August 18.—There were notifications received to-day of 4 new cases of bubonic plague in this city.

August 19.—There were to-day 3 more notifications of new plague cases in the city. Vaccination against plague is still continuing on a large scale. The governor of the State was vaccinated against plague yesterday.

August 20.—To-day 2 new cases of bubonic plague were entered at the plague hospital. Three deaths occurred in the same hospital. The number of vaccinations against plague increases daily. To-day 1 suspicious case was found at the Hospital Santa Isabel.

Yesterday 1 case of plague occurred in the family of a merchant of this city. The health department attempted to remove the case to the isolation hospital, but the attempt was resisted by the family. There was considerable disturbance in front of the house and one private of police was wounded. To-day, although there were many persons surrounding the house where the case occurred, the health inspectors could not find therein any person who was sick.

August 22.—Yesterday 2 deaths from bubonic plague occurred. To-day there were 3 more new cases of the epidemic disease.

Plague in Pernambuco.

August 20.—The inspector of hygiene informed the governor of the State yesterday evening that he had received notifications of 2 new cases suspected of being bubonic plague. A bacteriological examination of the cases was ordered to be made at once.

August 22.—Two young ladies died to-day in this city of bubonic plague.

I inclose certain newspaper clippings from Pernambuco and Bahia in reference to the localities where plague cases have occurred.